

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

901 Fourth Avenue Southwest
WATERTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA 57201-4107
PHONE (605) 882-6233 • FAX (605) 882-6238

July 22, 2004

Larry Englerth
Executive Director
South Dakota One-Call
1012 North Sycamore Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Larry,

In response to your letter dated July 14, 2004, you request some addition information on Complaint OC04-006 filed by Watertown Municipal Utilities.

1. What was the actual excavating activity that was occurring when the damage to the gas line occurred?

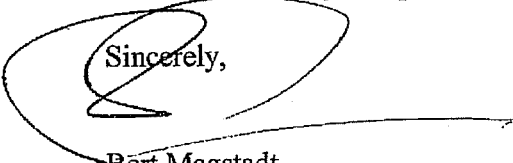
LaFramboise Construction was removing base material on the 4th Ave street project. I think the damage occurred with the front-end loader portion of a bobcat. The pictures I included with the complaint were taken after our own crews started repairing the damage and were meant to show everyone the close proximity of the house in the foreground, not the type of construction activity being performed.

2. What documentation or supporting evidence does either party have that would assist the Enforcement Committee in determining the actual time that the damage occurred?

Our gas construction foreman received a call from our locator on 5/27/04 around 8:40 am or so that a gas line was damaged the night before. Attached is a note from our locator that called this situation to our attention. In addition, I visited with Tom LaFramboise on 5/27/04 around 1:30 pm about the damaged line. He stated to me that he hit it the night before and meant to call but got busy and forgot to until our locator showed up the following morning. I only estimated the time the line was damaged as 7:00 pm on the 5/26/04. I don't know the exact time, but what Tom told me and our locator, I know it happened the night before, 5/26/04.

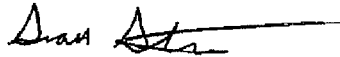
I hope this information will assist the Enforcement Committee in making the correct determination on this complaint. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (605) 882-6233 or on my cell phone at (605) 868-1649.

Sincerely,



Bert Magstadt
Assistant General Manager
Watertown Municipal Utilities

On Thursday, May 27th, I arrived at the 4th Ave street project to visit with the construction crew on locate needs for the day. At 8:40 am I was talking to Tom LaFramboise about locates needed when he told me that he found a line last night. He told me where it was and upon looking into it I noticed was a gas service line. It looked kinked pretty bad and I called Jerry Burns – Gas Construction foreman to check it out.



Scott Struss
Engineering Technician - Locator
Watertown Municipal Utilities

I received a call from Scott Struss about a damaged gas line on the 4th Ave project. I met John Lunde – Gas Department Cathodic & Leak Survey Technician at the site and saw that the line was damaged. Using a Flame Ionization unit, we found a leak about 20 feet from the house and then closed the corp on the tapping tee to stop the leak. We then called in emergency locates and repair later that day.

Jerry Burns
Gas Distribution Foreman
Watertown Municipal Utilities

